

3.12 INDIAN TRUST ASSETS

Indian Trust Assets (ITAs) are legal interests in property held in trust by the United States for Indian tribes or individuals. The Secretary of the Interior, acting as the trustee, holds many assets in trust. Examples of objects that may be trust assets are lands (including tribal trust, fee title, and allottee land); minerals; hunting and fishing rights, and water rights. While most ITAs are on reservations, they may also be found off-reservations. The United States has a trust responsibility to protect and maintain rights reserved by or granted to Indian tribes or Indian individuals by treaties, statutes, and executive orders. These are sometimes further interpreted through court decisions and regulations. The only tribe identified as potentially having ITAs in the Species Conservation Habitat Project area is the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians. The Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians' Reservation is located on approximately 24,000 acres along the northern shore of the Salton Sea. Communication with the tribe confirmed that there are no ITAs in the Species Conservation Habitat Project area or nearby vicinity (personal communication, R. Ferrer 2010); therefore, no impacts on ITAs would occur under any of the Project alternatives.

3.12.1 Personal Communications

Ferrer, Roland. 2010. Planning Director, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Tribe Planning Department. Personal communication with Megan Schwartz, Cardno ENTRIX, November 8.

SECTION 3.0
AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

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